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SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: May I know, Sir, whether this Government will recognize only that union which has got the majority of members? In the case of P. Orr & Sons where there are 220 workers, the Government and the management have recognized only that union which has got 20 members and not recognized the other union which has got 200 members.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The hon. Member need not anticipate and need not go to specific questions. He may wait till the Bill is published. He may then look into the provisions of the Bill, and he will have ample time to offer his comments when that Bill comes up for discussion in this House.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN: May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government will bring forward that important Bill in the next session of this Assembly in October?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I do not think the hon. Member is aware of the time-table of the next meeting of the Assembly in October. I do not think he would expect any discussion of this Bill at that meeting.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Sir, this Act is in force in Bombay. Have the Government examined the working of this Act in Bombay?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The experience of the Bombay Act is there before us.

Permits for importing medicinal preparations containing spirit.

* 271 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from Sri K. C. Gopalan Unni, M.L.A., in June 1956, regarding the issue of permits for importing spirituous medicinal preparations containing 80 to 90 per cent of alcohol into Palghat from Bangalore and Trichur;

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that permits for the import of Tincture Belladonna and Tincture Hyasiama have been given by the Revenue Board to one Sri A. S. Panikkar of Palghat, in May or June 1956;

(*d*) if so, whether Sri A. S. Panikkar holds any special licence under the Poisons Act of 1919; and

(*e*) if not, the circumstances under which the permit was issued to him?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) *to* (*e*) The entire matter is under the consideration of the Government.

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SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Sir, my memorandum was given as early as 9th June. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to say at what stage the enquiry is?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The matter is being examined by the Health Department.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Sir, it is reported that nine deaths have occurred in Palghat due to the drinking of a certain alcoholic preparation. The Hon. Minister here comes forth with the answer that certain officers of the Government have issued licences for importing these spirituous medicinal preparations containing 80 to 90 per cent of alcohol. May I know, Sir, if the Government have enquired whether these officers, that is, the Commissioner for Land Revenue, etc., who had issued the licence for getting such dangerous spirituous medicinal preparations, have made any chemical examination of the spirit, and will the Government enquire into the whole matter?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : I am not sure whether the deaths are due to this alcoholic drink. As I said, the whole matter is being examined by the Government.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : From the answer that the whole matter is being examined by the Government, I presume that the licences for the import of Tincture Belladonna and Tincture Hyasiama would have been granted to Sri A. S. Panikkar. If so, may I know why within one week of the receipt of application for a licence, the licence was issued? Have the Government looked into the question whether there is a clear violation of the provisions in the Poisons Act of 1919 with regard to the sale of these preparations? What action have the Government taken against the officers who have issued the licence in violation of the provisions of the Act?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : It is not that the Government have issued the licence. It is the Board of Revenue that has issued the licence. I do not know which clause of the Poisons Act he refers to. We cannot restrict the import of medicinal preparations from abroad and other States. As the High Court said, we cannot restrict imports. The whole matter is, as I said, being looked into.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Are the Government aware that the manufacture of allied spirituous medicinal preparations as well as the import of these preparations, which are nothing but coloured arrack, has increased a hundredfold and supplies to the dealers have increased a thousandfold?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : I know, Sir, that there is a certain amount of misuse. We have to rectify it. The Act has to be amended. It has got to be done with the permission of the Government of India. The Government of India themselves

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are thinking of bringing in amendments to the Central Act. Whatever recommendation this Government could make had already been made.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: It is fairly apparent from what has been going on that permission was granted in a short time—a week after the receipt of the application for licence. If the right to kill can be granted so very soon, why should the withdrawal of that right take a longer time? May I know why the Government are so tardy in preventing the man from killing more people in Palghat?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: The Government are not sure whether the preparations mentioned by the hon. Member have been imported at all. The person who is alleged to have imported it is not in possession of it. That is the information of the Government. Therefore, the whole matter has to be investigated. I do not know whether the stock is with him or the allegations are baseless.

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI: Sir, in my memorandum I have given information regarding 39 cases of this alcoholic spirit lying in the goodshed at Palghat. It was found that M. S. Mani and Co. of Bangalore had sent these 39 cases to Palghat addressed to "Self". Will the Government be pleased to state what happened to this stock, whether this stock had been delivered to somebody or whether any special permission has been given for distributing that stuff?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: Rajan Medical Stores, Palghat, is the firm alleged to have imported this. But the firm has not yet secured the stock. I do not know where the stock is lying.

9–20 a.m. SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether he will be pleased to give an assurance that suitable steps will be taken in consultation with Mr. Gopalan Unni, who resides in that place and who has helped the police also to a certain extent in detecting the crime, and other people interested in detecting such crimes and, of course, in accordance with the usual formalities and the provisions of the law?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN: All useful information by any hon. Member is welcome and I have no objection to discuss this matter with Mr. Gopalan Unni.

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI: I think the Hon. Minister is not correct in saying that the whole lot belongs to Rajan Medical Stores. Actually 39 cases of these essences were imported into Palghat and they were lying in the goods yard and nobody came to take delivery of the goods for two months. The matter was communicated to the police. On enquiry it was found that there was no such firm as "M. S. Mani & Co., Bangalore". What has happened to that?

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : As I said, the whole matter is being examined.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Are the Government aware that nowadays more essence-killing shops are existing in Malabar and as a result more people are badly affected by them? In the place where about 10 shops were used to be, now about 100 shops are existing. I believe one of the reasons for the failure of the Prohibition policy of the Government is the existence of these essence shops in Malabar. So, will the Government take note of this fact and rectify the defects as early as possible?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : I may inform the hon. Member that under the Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act of 1956, this Government have already forwarded the draft rules to the Government of India for regulating Inter-State movement of spirituous medicinal preparations through the licensing system and have asked for the delegation of powers to promulgate those rules. A reply from the Government of India is awaited. Unless we take legislative measures, I do not think, it is possible for us to put down this illicit trade.

DR. K. B. MENON : This was a subject of serious discussion when Rajaji was the Chief Minister and I believe then a decision was taken that essences should be completely prohibited. Will the Government now at least see that the sale of essences is completely prohibited?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : As I said, it is not possible in view of the judgment of the High Court.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : At least to remove the cloud of suspicion in the minds of others that the Government are trying to save their Prohibition face by allowing or acquiescing or even encouraging the people to indulge in such trade so that they may not make much of a protest against Prohibition, will the Government at least see that the sale of these lethal essences is put down with a heavy hand?

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member should not make such a remark against the Government.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : I am not saying anything against the Government. I only want them to clear off the suspicions in the minds of the people.

MR. SPEAKER : The words like ' suspicion ' or ' encouragement ' are not the proper words to be used against the Government.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : I want to make the position clear. I do not mean to suspect or encourage anybody. But lest people should suspect, let us make our position quite clear and track down the particular person who has been distributing these lethal essences in Palghat.

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : I have already given an elaborate and detailed answer to all the supplementary questions put. But I can assure the hon. Member that the Government are as keenly interested in the enforcement of Prohibition as the hon. Member is and there is no need for my giving an assurance on this matter.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Is it a fact that licences were granted for importing about 6,700 tons of this medicine to a place where only 15 to 20 tons are required in a year?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : As I said before, the Government did not grant the permit. It is the Board of Revenue which has granted it. Under what circumstances, the Board did it, I am not in a position to say just now. The whole matter is being investigated. But I can say that we cannot restrict the import of any medicinal preparations into the State, as such restrictions are considered to be illegal by the High Court.

Preventive and curative measures for the death of cattle in Kollegal taluk

* 272 Q.—SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of cattle that died during the last two months in the Kollegal taluk;

(*b*) the causes for the death; and

(*c*) the preventive and curative measures taken by the State Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The number of deaths on the whole is 330 for the period June and July 1956. Out of these, 8 have died due to foot-and-mouth disease. The remaining 322 are due to "other diseases".

(*b*) the causes for the death are mainly acute scarcity of food and water due to failure of rains.

(*c*) The Veterinary Disease Investigation Officer (Cattle) visited the area and investigated. The Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Key villages in charge of Livestock, visited the villages from 8th to 10th of August. Two hundred and one animals were treated. As there is no suitable vaccine against foot-and-mouth disease and as the mortality due to those diseases is rare, no vaccination could be taken up. The District Veterinary Officer had been instructed to send fortnightly reports on the condition and take preliminary measures against contagious diseases. Arrangements have been made to shift the cattle from one forest to another where grazing facilities may be available and to supply fodder from surplus areas. It is expected to prevent further cattle mortality.